

R E M A R K S

Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Greenway (US Patent 5,649,349) on the grounds set forth in the Office Action.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Greenway (US Patent 5,649,349) in view of Hickey (US Patent 4,136,296) for the reasons stated in the Office Action.

Claims 6 and 7 have been amended. The subject matter of these amended claims was not rejected by the Examiner so that the present claims should now be allowable.

In the event there are further issues remaining the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

All of the claims are believed to be allowable in view of the foregoing argument.

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
Hans-Jürgen Johann, et al

by: MARTIN A. FARBER
Attorney for Applicants
Registered Representative
Registration No. 22,345

* CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box